

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,
Building 138
(Quartermaster Storehouse)
Des Moines
Polk County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-CC

HABS
IOWA,
77-DESMO,
24-CC-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Building No. 138. Quartermaster Storehouse

Built in accordance with the Quartermaster General's standard plan 198, this structure was finished on October 9, 1908, at a cost of \$13,710.20. It had brick walls, a gabled slate roof with returned eaves, and a rusticated limestone foundation. The brick was joined in common bond and the mortar was not pigmented with red. The west end of the building fronted on Butner Street, and it measured 126 feet 2 inches long by 36 feet 4 inches wide. Its east end originally contained a door with a small pediment and four double hung windows--two at the first level and two at the attic level, each with 6-over-6-lights. The west end contained five double hung windows--three at the first level and two at the attic level. On the north side were nine double hung windows and one double door with a 5-light transom, while on the south side an identical configuration existed. All windows and entrances had segmental arches. Windows had plain limestone lug sills. Ten 6-light basement awning windows lined the foundation at either side, and two more were at each end. All had limestone lug sills and were barred. Two hipped dormers protruded from the south side of the roof, and one protruded from the north side. Each dormer was covered with slate and contained two double hung windows, each of 3-over-3-lights. Atop the roof were two ridge ventilators. The cornice had a molded fascia. The roof had integrated gutters with iron downspouts. A corbeled chimney was also present. At the east end of the building was a single door with stairs leading from the ground, both features evidently added at a later date.

The building had a capacity of 106,300 cubic feet and contained 13,032 square feet of floor space. Rooms were as follows:

Basement:

Room, 123' 8" x 33' 10"

First floor:

Office room, 13' 1" x 11' 7"
Office room, 20' 3" x 11' 7"
Storeroom, 111' 7" x 33' 10"

Attic:

Storeroom, 33' 10" x 33' 10"

The structure was fitted for electric lighting and steam heating. It had sewer and water line connections, as well as two water closets. Floors were of concrete and wood. Repairs to Building No. 138 between its construction and 1920 averaged \$27.16 per year. Major, unspecified repairs amounted to an expenditure of \$374.45. In 1934 the heating plant was overhauled and two unit heaters were installed.

Physical changes to the exterior have included the removal of platforms from the north and south sides, the removal of the pediment above the door on the east end and the addition there of new wooden stairs, and the construction of a corrugated metal shed on the east end. On the west end, the stairwell to the basement has been covered with a frame shed. Many windows have been boarded over. As of 1987 the structure was used for maintenance storage purposes and was in poor to fair condition. (43)

43. Card for Building No. 138. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987.